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IN THE CLAIMS:

1.-6. (Canceled)

7. (Currently Amended) A storage operating control system, comprising:

an external storage device having storage data and storage operating data
and a service processor for operating said storage operating data;

a host computer coupled with said external storage device via a first
connection; and ~~so as to read/write said storage data from/to said external storage~~
~~device; and~~

a storage management server coupled with said host computer via a second
connection and said service processor via a third connection,

wherein said storage management server executes a storage operating data
server program, and

wherein said host computer executes an application program associated with
said storage operating data server program so as to read/write said storage
operating data from/to said external storage device through said storage
management server and said third connection, and wherein said host computer
reads/writes said storage data from/to said external storage device through said first
connection.

8. (Previously Presented) The storage operating control system according to
Claim 7, wherein said host computer operates in accordance with said storage

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operating data which the storage management server reads from said external

storage device.

9. (Currently Amended) A storage operating control system as defined in the

claim 7, comprising a switch for selectively shutting off said third connection between

said service processor and said storage management server.

10. (Previously Presented) A storage operating control system as defined in

the claim 9, wherein said switch is provided in an interface of said service processor.

11. (Previously Presented) A storage operating control system as defined in

the claim 7, wherein said storage management server comprising a WWW (World

Wide Web) terminal connection and a WWW server program to allow access of the

storage operating data using the WWW terminal connection.

12. (Previously Presented) A storage operating control system as defined in

the claim 7, wherein communication between said host computer and said storage

management server on said second connection is at least partially conducted using

JAVA Remote Method Invocation (RMI) on a transmission control protocol/Internet

protocol (TCP/IP).

13. (Previously Presented) A storage operating control system as defined in

the claim 7, wherein communication between said service processor and said

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storage management server on said third connection is at least partially conducted

using JAVA Remote Method Invocation (RMI) on a transmission control

protocol/Internet protocol (TCP/IP).

14. (Currently Amended) A storage operating control system, comprising:

an external storage device having storage data and configuration information

and a service processor for operating said configuration information;

a host computer coupled with said external storage device via a first

connection; and ~~so as to read/write said storage data from/to said external storage~~

~~device; and~~

a storage management server coupled with said host computer via a second

connection and said service processor via a third connection,

wherein said storage management server executes a storage operating data

server program, and

wherein said host computer executes an application program associated with

said storage operating data server program so as to read/write said configuration

information from/to said external storage device through said storage management

server and said third connection, and wherein said host computer reads/writes said

storage data from/to said external storage device through said first connection..

15. (Previously Presented) The storage operating control system according to

Claim 14, wherein said host computer operates in accordance with said configuration

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information which the storage management server reads from said external storage

device.

16. (Currently Amended) A storage operating control system as defined in the

claim 14, comprising a switch for <u>selectively</u> shutting off said third connection

between said service processor and said storage management server.

17. (Previously Presented) A storage operating control system as defined in

the claim 16, wherein said switch is provided in an interface of said service

processor.

18. (Previously Presented) A storage operating control system as defined in

the claim 14, wherein said storage management server comprising a WWW (World

Wide Web) terminal connection and a WWW server program to allow access of the

configuration information using the WWW terminal connection.

19. (Previously Presented) A storage operating control system as defined in

the claim 14, wherein communication between said host computer and said storage

management server on said second connection is at least partially conducted using

JAVA Remote Method Invocation (RMI) on a transmission control protocol/Internet

protocol (TCP/IP).

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    20. (Previously Presented) A storage operating control system as defined in

the claim 14, wherein communication between said service processor and said

storage management server on said third connection is at least partially conducted

using JAVA Remote Method Invocation (RMI) on a transmission control

protocol/Internet protocol (TCP/IP).